

**January -
April
2021**

Program Guide

York County Department of Parks and Recreation



Park Properties

Open Dawn until Dusk Daily

Administrative Headquarters

(located at Rudy Park)

Mon - Fri 8:00am-4:30pm

Closed 12:30- 1pm Daily

Hours of Operations

Nixon Park

Nature Center

Tue - Sat 8:30am-4:30pm

Sun 12noon-4:30pm

Hanover Junction & New Freedom Train Stations

May 22 - Oct 31 Sat 10am-5pm

June - Sept Sun 1-5pm

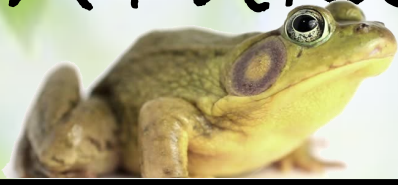
Wallace-Cross Mill

Open houses start in June

www.YorkCountyParks.org

YORK COUNTY PARKS

NATURE DISCOVERY CAMP



Nature Discovery Camp utilizes the many natural resources York County Parks has to offer. Through hiking, water exploration, creative projects, journaling, and more, our goal is for campers to discover the many wonders of nature. We believe that outdoor exploration and play make children smarter, healthier, and better problem solvers!

All camps run 9:30am - 2:30pm unless otherwise noted.



- Drop-off/pick-up at multiple parks



- Includes boating (boat provided)



- Includes optional biking

Campers must meet the minimum age requirement before the first day of their camp.

POLLYWOGS' CAMP (Ages 5-6)

Get your feet wet at your first nature camp!

- June 14-18
- July 19-23 (9:30am-1:30pm)

FLEDGLINGS' CAMP (Ages 7-8)

Branch out with us and learn about the great outdoors!

- June 7-11
- June 14-18
- July 26-30 (9am-2pm)
- August 2-6

EXPLORERS' CAMP (Ages 9-10)

Make new discoveries about the world around you!

- June 28-July 2
- July 19-23
- July 26-30 (9am-2pm)

ADVENTURERS' CAMP (Ages 11-13)

Embrace the unknown on roads less traveled!

- June 21-June 25 (9am-3pm)

PATHFINDERS' CAMP (Ages 14-16)

Chart your own path and follow it with friends!

- July 12-16 (9am-3pm)

Camp Registration

Park Members—January 19th • Non-members—February 2nd • Camp Prices Range \$80-\$140

TO REGISTER - visit YorkCountyParks.org or register & pay in person at Rudy Park

FOR MORE INFORMATION - visit YorkCountyParks.org, click EDUCATION, click NATURE DISCOVERY CAMPS, or call Nixon Park, (717) 428-1961

BECOME A PARK MEMBER FOR EARLY REGISTRATION at SupportYourParks.org

Discover with us. Grow for life.

Happenings in the Parks

ALL PROGRAMS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION BY CALLING (717) 428-1961 AND SPACES ARE LIMITED. ALL PROGRAMS HAVE NO FEE UNLESS NOTED. DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED. PARTICIPANTS MUST BRING A MASK AND PLAN TO SOCIAL DISTANCE.

Friday, January 1 – Monday, January 4

Self-Guided New Year Hike



Nixon Park, Dawn to Dusk

Find your way down the trail as you follow signs that take you on a self-guided reflection. Make sure you start your year with the right mindset and set intentions for success! Appropriate for ages 10 and up.

Saturday, January 2

First Day Hike



Nixon Park, 10-11am

Are you a procrastinator like naturalist Madi Wachsmuth? If so, enjoy your first hike on Saturday the 2nd where no one is judging! Learn to start your year with the right mindset on this naturalist-guided walk. Appropriate for ages 10 and up.

Saturday, January 9 & Sunday, January 10

Winter Wildlife Walks



Nixon Park, 2:30-4pm

The winter woods has a lot to offer if you know where to look! Join naturalist Brandon Pentz for a walk on the trails. We'll discuss what our local wildlife is up to, observe some winter plants, and keep our eyes and ears open for whatever comes our way! Walks will last about an hour and include uphill/downhill portions.

Wednesday, January 13

Cabin Fever Hike



Rocky Ridge Park, Hidden Laurel Parking Lot, Pheasant Pavilion, 1:30-3:30pm

Come out for a fun winter hike to see what the woods have to show us! Learn about how the plants and animals are surviving the winter. Make sure to wear good boots in case of snow or ice.

Sunday, January 17

Amber and the Sticky Stuff That Many Plants Ooze



Virtual Zoom Lesson, 2-4pm

In this virtual talk, Dr. Jorge Santiago-Blay (Smithsonian Institution), a resident of York County who is doing research on bees in our own Nixon Park, will discuss the origins of amber. Along with gums, phenolics, and other compounds, resins are plant exudates that produce the sticky and nice-smelling stuff that many plants ooze. Of all plant exudates, almost the only ones that survive deep time are the resins. Fossilized resin is known as amber. Dr. Santiago-Blay will show many examples demonstrating the uses of resins and amber as well as show how easily we can be fooled by folks who sell human-made materials as amber. Lots and lots of pretty images will be shown. Registered participants will be emailed the Zoom meeting link to join the program.

Sunday, January 24

Winter Detective Walk



Nixon Park, 2:30-4pm

Come out for a hike with naturalist Madi Wachsmuth as we explore the woods and search for signs of animals. Track down who has been walking the trails at night and listen for animal sounds. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

Sunday, January 31

Geology of York County



Virtual Zoom Lecture, 2:30pm

Join geologist Jeri Jones for a special Zoom tour of the geology of York County. It is hard to visualize that the crust under our feet holds so many stories. We will start when Pennsylvania was located in the Southern Hemisphere in an ocean, including some volcanoes

erupting. York County has been affected by several continental collisions and at least one time of rifting. Ancient animals included trilobites, a newly named marine animal and dinosaurs. The program will also touch on several of the major mineral resources that put York County on the map. Jeri will also include recent earthquake activity and where sinkholes can occur.

Saturday, February 6 & Sunday, February 7



Woods Wander: Sugarbush

Nixon Park, 2-3:30pm Saturday, 10-11:30am Sunday

Join naturalist Brandon Pentz on a winter walk out to the sugarbush on the Bird Hollow Trail. Each winter we tap red maple trees in hopes of collecting sap for maple syrup making. With a little help from the weather we will have some sap to collect and store as we learn more about the process of maple sugaring. We will also discuss and observe the winter woods as we walk. Walks will last about an hour and include uphill/downhill portions.

Sunday, February 7

Bird House Virtual Workshop

Virtual Zoom Workshop, 2:30-4pm



Are you looking for a fun, educational, and rewarding project to work on this spring and summer? Consider learning the basics of maintaining a nesting bird house. This virtual workshop will teach you everything you need to know about cavity nesting birds, and installing and maintaining a bird house on your property. A limited supply of bird house kits will be available for purchase at the nature center gift shop for registered program participants.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES: John Rudy Office & Nixon Park Nature Center closed unless otherwise noted. Park grounds open dawn–dusk daily.

Friday, January 1—New Year's Day, Monday, January 18—Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, February 15—President's Day, Friday, April 2—Good Friday, Sunday, April 4—Easter Sunday.

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Sunday, February 14

Family Night Hike

Nixon Park, 6:30-8pm

Parks naturalist Madi Wachsmuth will lead a stroll through the forest to learn about the creatures of the night and their nocturnal adaptations. Dress for the weather. Appropriate for ages 10 and up.



Sunday, February 21

Planning Your Vegetable Garden

Virtual Zoom Lesson, 2-3:30pm

Early spring is the time to begin making your dreams of an abundant vegetable garden a reality. Gianina Porter, Farm Park Manager at Center for Maryland Agriculture and Farm Park, will discuss choosing and starting seeds, soil preparation and fertility, transplanting, and season extension. Growing your own food is one way to eat local and have a smaller footprint on the Earth. Registered participants will be emailed the Zoom link to join the program.



Sat-Sun, Feb 27-28 & March 6-7

Maple Sugaring Days

Nixon Park, 10am-3pm

Follow a one-way self-guided track through indoor and outdoor maple sugaring interpretive stations. Learn all the steps to identify a maple tree, tap a tree, and make maple syrup. If you decide to take the optional 0.5 mile walk to the sugar bush, you will find a team of volunteers hard at work boiling sap on the modern boiling pan. Maple products will be on sale from Patterson Farms. COVID-19 state mandates are required to be followed. \$2 admission. Ages 5 and under free. Park members free. No registration.



Sunday, March 14

Bird-watching for Beginners Virtual Program

Virtual Zoom Lecture, 2:30-4pm

Over the course of spring many different species of birds will be returning to our area from their wintering grounds. Join in virtually to learn about local resources and starter supplies to get yourself prepared for some prime bird-watching! We will discuss birding basics, common spring migrants, and special visitors for which to be on the



lookout. Registered participants will be emailed the Zoom link to join the program.

Sunday, March 21

Signs of Spring Nature Walk

Nixon Park, 2:30-4pm

Hunt for the first signs of spring as winter loses its grip. Search and explore for signs of animals coming out of hibernation and returning from migration with parks naturalist Nancy Heiser. This family exploration will examine fields, woods, and wetland habitats so wear your hiking boots. For ages six and up.



Saturday, March 27 & Sunday, March 28

Natural Egg-Dyeing

Nixon Park, Saturday 10am and 1pm, and Sunday 1pm

Learn about the history of egg dyeing, then try your hand at dyeing eggs with natural substances! Bring hard boiled eggs and old clothes to wear (no more than one dozen per participant). Children must be accompanied by an adult. Appropriate for ages 5 and up. \$5 per dyer, no fee for helpers.

Saturday, April 3

Self-Guided Spring Activities Available

Nixon Park, regular hours

Naturalist Brandon Pentz will explain the variety of self-guided family nature activities that are available throughout the season. Dress for the weather and plan for exploring.

Sunday, April 11

Early Spring Wildflowers

Nixon Park, 2:30-4pm

Stroll with a parks naturalist to spot the wildflowers & warblers of April. Bring along your favorite wildflower field guide or borrow one of ours to learn how to identify these fleeting treasures.



Spring Beauties

Sunday, April 18

Signs of Spring Hike

Nixon Park, 9:30-11am, & 2:30-4pm

Take a walk with naturalist Madi Wachsmuth as we search for spring wildflowers and animals that are 'springing' back to life as the season shifts. This family hike will explore fields, forests, and wetland habitats so wear your hiking boots! For ages 6 and up.



Saturday, April 24 & Sunday, April 25

Earth Day Nature Walks

Nixon Park, 9:30-11am & 2:30-4pm each day

Join parks naturalist Brandon Pentz for an Earth Day themed nature walk as we learn about beneficial plants, invasive weeds, and maintaining healthy habitats. We will discuss how we relate to the environment, small impacts we can make, and pull some garlic mustard, of course!



Sunset Scramble Bike Rides

Join in the fun as riders travel 13-15 miles round trip on the Rail Trail on Tuesdays. Starting time is 6:30pm.

Rudy Park (North Ext.) - April 13

Brillhart Station - April 20

Glatfelter Station- April 27

Seven Valleys - May 4

Hanover Junction - May 11

Railroad - May 18

New Freedom - May 25

Moonlight Bike Rides

Join us for a moonlight ride for about 9-10 miles round trip on the Rail Trail. Starting time is 8:30pm. Park at:

Seven Valleys- April 24

Brillhart Station - May 29

For both rides, the group determines the pace. Each rider must have a light, water, & helmets are required.

